

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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Guilty plea in 2005 samurai sword slay

A 24 year old man about to start a second trial for the 2005 samurai sword decapitation of his stepfather, a retired New York City police officer, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the first degree as jury selection was to begin today in Suffolk County court in Riverhead.

Zachary Gibian will be sentenced to 25 years in prison on May 16. He waived his right to an appeal and will also serve five years post-release supervision.

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said today's plea is a satisfactory disposition for the victim's elderly father.

"This conviction will spare the family from another long trial listening to detailed testimony how their loved one was brutally killed," Spota said.

"Equally important is the fact that the truth is out; that Zachary Gibian – not his mother - killed Scott Nager and his story of being sexually abused by his stepfather was fiction."

During the seven-week trial, the defendant claimed on the witness stand that he lied during his videotaped confession to protect his mother who he said killed Nager when she found out he was sexually abusing him.

During his today's plea, Gibian said "There was no sexual abuse".

The defendant said he attacked his stepfather because there was a lot of "constant arguing in the home for many months, and I couldn't take it any longer. I snapped and got a sword."

Affirming his original confession, Gibian told the court, "I swung the sword two times with the intent to kill my stepfather, Scott Nager, and killed him."



ZACHARY R. GIBIAN
DOB - 12/04/1986

A criminal charge is merely an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.



THE SCDA COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS (631) 853-4118